Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, XF, XA

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: JORDANIAN IMPRESSIONS OF

OAU/ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT, CAIRO, MARCH 7

REF: STATE 046135

- 1. EMBASSY POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF ASKED MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HASSAN IBRAHIM, WHO LED GOJ DELEGATION UNTIL KING HUSSEIN ARRIVED, FOR HIS IMPRESSIONS OF AFRO-ARAB CONFERENCE IN CAIRO. IBRAHIM CHARACTERIZED BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS AND SUMMIT MEETINGS AS AMONG THE MOST RATIONAL, NONPOLEMIC HE HAS ATTENDED. ASKED WHY, HE THOUGHT A COMBINATION OF FACTORS PRODUCED AN ATTITUDE, ESPECIALLY ON THE AFRICANS' PART, OF WANTING TO GET SOMETHING ACCOMPLISHED AND IMPROVE TIES WITH ARAB STATES.
- 2. A PRIMARY REASON FOR AFRICANS' BUSINESSLIKE APPROACH, IBRAHIM BELIEVES, WAS OF COURSE THEIR WISH TO GET MONEY FROM ARAB OIL PRODUCERS. BEYOND THAT, HOWEVER, HE SENSED THAT AFRICANS FEEL ISSUES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE ON THEIR WAY TO RESOLUTION NOW. AFRICANS SEEMED TO FEEL THAT ALTHOUGH PRESSURE WILL BE KEPT ON, CONFIDENTIAL

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STAGE OF RHETORICAL EMPHASIS ON THOSE MATTERS IS OVER, AND SERIOUS LOOK SHOULD BE TAKEN NOW AT PROSPECTS FOR FULL RANGE OF AFRICAN-ARAB RELATIONS BEYOND ANTI-COLONIAL FACET.

3. IBRAHIM WAS ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED THAT AFRICANS MAINTAINED NON-POLEMICAL APPROACH THROUGHOUT LONG

PERIOD OF TIME AT CONFERENCE THAT ARAB OIL PRODUCERS TOOK TO COME UP WITH EXACT AMOUNT OF AID PLEDGED TO AFRICAL DEVELOPMENT. IBRAHIM SAID ARABS' FOOT DRAGGING ON THIS RESULTED LARGELY FROM OIL RICH STATES' WISH TO ESTABLISH THAT AID WAS COMING FROM THEM DIRECTLY RATHER THAN FROM ARAB STATES AS A WHOLE, AS NON-IOL PRODUCERS WANTED.

4. IBRAHIM ADMITTED THAT AFRICANS' APPROACH PROBABLY WOULD HAVE CHANGED CONSIDERABLY AT END OF CONFERENCE IF ARAB OIL PRODUCERS DID NOT COME UP WITH THE AID FIGURES THAT FINALLY EMERGED. NONETHELESS, HE REMAINS IMPRESSED AND SOMEWHAT CURIOUS ABOUT THE AFRICAN ATTITUDE, ESPECIALLY SINCE MUCH OF THE ARAB OIL STATES' PLEDGES ARE IMPRECISE ABOUT DATES AND PROGRAMMING. PICKERING

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